

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been objected to due to informalities. The claim has been amended to correct the noted informality.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. However, Applicant's respectfully submit that claim 4 is clear as presently recited. The "for completion" recitation is referring to completion of the packet that is not the "section" initially read from the buffer.

Claim 1, 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Dempo. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dempo fails to disclose a microprocessor which is configured to limit an allowable value range for VPI/VCI values in a header of ATM cells according to a plurality of AAL2 routing lists, so that the interface considers corresponding VCI/VPI coding bits, as required by the claimed invention. According to the standard up to 248 AAL2, connections can be carried in each VCI/VPI connection. These connections must be completely listed for each ATM connection which takes place in routing lists. A routing list with 248 entries is therefore required for each ATM connection that end in an AAL2 switcher SSC. When the VCI/VPI information in the ATM cell are interpreted, then exactly the same number of routing lists as potential VCI/VPI combinations must be available and capable of being recognized; this number would be 2^{28} according to the ATM standard. In the invention, one is limited to a few VCI/VPI values, permitting a reduction in the expenditure for searching the routing lists. The microprocessor is therefore given VCI/VPI values from a previously declared, limited supply. Such a suppression of bits in the cells is not allowed at an external interface, but is not a problem in the present invention since there is an internal interface which is located within the system of the service switching unit.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Dempo. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons presented in the arguments above.

Since the recited structure is not disclosed by the applied prior art, claims 1-4 are patentable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122029900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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